

TO: Prospective J-1 Visa Waiver Employers/Sponsors

FROM: Alvin Harrion, Division Director II, Office Of Primary Care Liaison

RE: **Revised Mississippi J-1 Visa Waiver Policies and Procedures:
“State 30 Program”**

The Office of Primary Care Liaison (OPCL), within the Bureau of Policy and Planning has been designated as the Division to serve as a State Contact and clearinghouse for the above referenced program. OPCL will administer the program in a fair and consistent manner, as well as provide technical assistance to all interested in developing either the site predetermination or “actual” application for placement of a foreign-trained J-1 Visa Waiver provider. Attached please find the revised Mississippi J-1 Visa Waiver Policies and Procedures for the State 30 Program. **Separate Guidelines are available for Specialists.**

Please note the changes/modifications to the MSDH J-1 Waiver Policies. THESE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ARE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

THE FOLLOWING IS IMPORTANT INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE J-1 WAIVER PROCESS:

- Health care facilities/sites/sponsors interested in employing J-1 Visa Waiver physicians **must** submit a written request to the Office of Primary Care Liaison for a **“Predetermination”**, **prior to developing their actual J-1 Visa Waiver Application.** The request, at a minimum, must include the items contained on the attached page, “Site Predetermination Application”. No action in regards to the predetermination will be taken prior to written submission of the application, to include supporting documentation. **NO INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED OVER THE TELEPHONE IN REGARDS TO THE APPLICATION PRIOR TO FINAL REVIEW BEING COMPLETED.**
- Information on currently designated health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) for primary medical care or mental health recommendations will be provided upon request. Medical facilities located in those counties which are not a part of the Appalachian Regional Commission are ineligible to recruit primary care J-1 Physicians through this program.
- **If** a favorable final determination is provided, your health care facility may request and receive technical assistance in developing a “full-blown” or “actual” application.
- The US Department of State requires that the J-1 Visa Waiver Data Sheet be submitted to the appropriate address contained in the Department’s policies, along with the \$230.00 user processing fee and two self-addressed, stamped, legal-size envelopes. A USIA file number will be assigned, and must be placed on each page within the actual application. The Department of State’s mailing address; copies of the Appalachian Regional Commission’s policy and agreement; and the required data sheet are included in this packet.

If there are questions, please contact the Office of Primary Care at 601/576-7216.